

THE PALACE OF SWEETS

(WATCH FOR IT)

DR. RHEE GIVES STATEMENT ON CONTROVERSY IN KOREAN COLONY

Says It's a Struggle of a Few Politicians Against the General Mass of People Who Demand a "Clean Government"

In view of the conflicting charges and stories among members of the Korean colony growing out of the Korean National Association's financial troubles, the Star-Bulletin asked Dr. Syngman Rhee, the Korean widely known as a student, thinker and Christian worker, a personal friend of President Wilson and a laborer in the Christian educational field here, to make a statement of his views upon the question at issue. Dr. Rhee's statement is here presented:

It is true that the trouble in the Korean National Association is over the disposition of the association funds, but it is not true that one party wants to send money to Korea for revolutionary purposes, while "the conservative party demands to keep it here for the benefit of needy Koreans." The fact is that the general mass of Korean people in Hawaii are thoroughly awakened to the fact that they have made a mistake by leaving the association funds entirely in the hands of the few leaders in Honolulu, and want to remodel the financial and administrative system of the association so that no such mistake can be repeated in the future.

The recent election of officers, by votes of all the members of the association on these islands, turned the association over to a new set of men, who have prominent standing as church leaders. By this election the former leaders of the association, who have been running the association for years, were completely ousted with no hope of getting back to their position again. So they, with a number of their loyal adherents and hirelings, 24 or 25 in all in the city of Honolulu, cling together to make their last desperate effort to overthrow the new administration. It may seem strange how these few Koreans in Honolulu could expect to win the fight against the entire Korean population on these islands. But from their years' experiences, they know well how to handle the poor, ignorant laborers on the plantations.

It is, therefore, not a "faction fight" as some persons would represent it, but a struggle of a few politicians against the general mass of people

who demand a "clean government" in the association.

When I came to Honolulu from Washington, D. C., in February, 1913, I found all the Koreans on the islands in a state of general agitation. I soon discovered the fact that a few men in the association were leading a mighty campaign against the established mission work at Honolulu and on the other islands. The Nationalists, claiming that all the patriotic Koreans must regard the association as their nation and that every Korean should pay \$5 to it each year, were striving to bring the church leaders under their control. My advice to them all was that as long as the church and the association are both for the good of the people they must work hand in hand, and help each other, though in different lines yet for the same end. This was understood by all our people and they have been endeavoring to do this during the last two years.

Before my coming to Hawaii there came another young man from the states, Young M. Park, a graduate of the University of Nebraska, whom I always feel proud to claim as one of my best friends. He exercised much influence over the leaders of the association and took a special interest in the political activities of the association and started a military school for young men, while I, on the other hand, devoted myself to the educational and religious work in connection with the Methodist mission. Of course, he was exceedingly popular among the association leaders, and I was criticised by some persons as working against the association, which was not at all true.

I do not wish to know how much money they collected and how they spent it, but I did wish to know why such a large sum of money—anywhere between \$10,000 and \$15,000—each year, including the regular dues and special subscriptions for various purposes, hard-earned and given with good intention by poor laboring people, could not be used for real benefit of the Korean people. I do not think it has ever occurred to Mr. Park's mind that they were handling the money too carelessly and I was not in a position to know or say anything about it.

The association usually holds its annual convention in January. The convention composed of the delegates from various plantations constitutes the legislative body of the organization. At this convention candidates for new officers are to be nominated and announced to the people, who would vote for the election. Last January the regular convention was held and re-elected Kim Chong Hark as president for another term, and Kim In Plo as treasurer. Among certain delegates it was reported that some of the association funds and property had been misappropriated. An immediate investigation of the books was demanded, but the officers, using their influence, smoothed it over and 27 delegates went away, some quite dissatisfied. However, the news soon spread all over the islands like wild fire.

All the members of the association refusing to pay their regular dues, demanded a thorough investigation. New delegates began to gather here by the latter part of April, and a special convention was formally opened with 32 men. Since that time the treasurer, Hong In Plo, has disappeared and his whereabouts is still unknown. Hong is responsible for the regular funds in the treasury, but Kim, the president, should answer for the accounts or the special subscriptions received for the building. After six days' struggle, the delegates finally succeeded in compelling the president to show his books, which revealed the fact that while the actual cost of the building was less than \$3500, the total sum raised and secured as a loan in the name of the association building fund amounted to over \$7000. They had tried to settle it quietly with the president, but Kim's friends and adherents, in fear they might lose the confidence of the people and subsequently lose their positions, backed him up and tried to make people believe that it was a false charge. They created all sorts of stories and scattered them all over the islands. They declared that "some persons are trying to destroy the organization" and that "some schemers are stirring up a factional spirit in order to get hold of the association's money," etc.

Unfortunately for Kim, his books are now in the possession of the convention. A sense of general indignation was aroused among Koreans against him and the case was laid before the territorial authorities for final settlement. A new election of officers took place and S. H. Hong, now editor of the Korean Advocate, and Chung In Soo were elected president and vice-president respectively. They are giving their service without salary. Twenty-two men, seven of whom are former officers, started an opposition, declaring that the appeal to the United States court was unconstitutional. During this fearful struggle one of these men struck Chung In Soo, then the provisional president of the association, and was arrested at the police court. In a mass meeting held on the evening of June 5 at the association building, the new officers made a strong appeal to the people in Honolulu for protection against those who, with acts of violence, continually attempted to break up the meetings then in session. This is the meeting they refer to as having passed a resolution to kill all the members of the opposition party.

What they are aiming at is to ruin the reputation of the church workers and to put the new officers of the association out of their positions. Of course, I have no desire to meddle with this unhappy affair either one way or the other. But for the sake of the poor humble Koreans as a whole I hope to see this trouble soon come to an end with a result more profitable to many rather than a few members of the association.

Yours respectfully,
SYNGMAN RHEE.

From a Student.

A student writes:
Sir: I am not a new faction or an old faction but a student of the Korean central school. As I read in the daily papers the accounts of the present trouble in the Korean National Association, I felt deeply grieved at the false statements made by some of the old factionists. There were several articles written about the students of the Korean central school, stating that Dr. Rhee, our beloved principal, armed the students for the purpose of protecting his party. These statements are entirely false. Since this trouble arose, Dr. Rhee has continually advised the students not to

mix in the fight but to study diligently. All the Koreans in the Hawaiian Islands are working hard with the hope of educating the students in the western civilization which they themselves had not received. But some idle men in Honolulu are trying to involve the innocent students and our principal who is laboring so hard in our midst. By these false statements they are not only involving the innocent students in the fight, but teachers and pastors who are trying to help the students to enjoy their Christian freedom under the Stars and Stripes. They are making these false statements against the students, pastors, and teachers merely on account of hatred against the church and the present educational system.

A statement was made in the Star-Bulletin Thursday, June 17, 3:30 edition, that Mr. Ko Luck Joe, Ann Hyen Kyeng, Sudg Yong Whan and Kim Kyeng Woon made inflammatory speeches stating that they must kill the 22 men whenever they should meet them. Even savages in the ancient times did not make such inflammatory speeches before the public against their fellowmen. How, then, could a pastor, a teacher and leading men among the Koreans, who are trying to help the general welfare of the Koreans in Hawaii, make such statements as that? Who in the Hawaiian Islands except those idle men who are trying to involve the students in the fight believe such false statements?

YANG YOU CHAN.

A decision in favor of the respondents has been handed down by Circuit Judge Whitney in the case of P. L. Yong Hoy against Yong Shun and Dugal Campbell, an action founded on a bill of equity to declare a trust. The case was on trial before Judge Whitney for more than a year.

How to Attract the Eye is a Problem of Every Businessman. Read Chapter 13, on Page 9.



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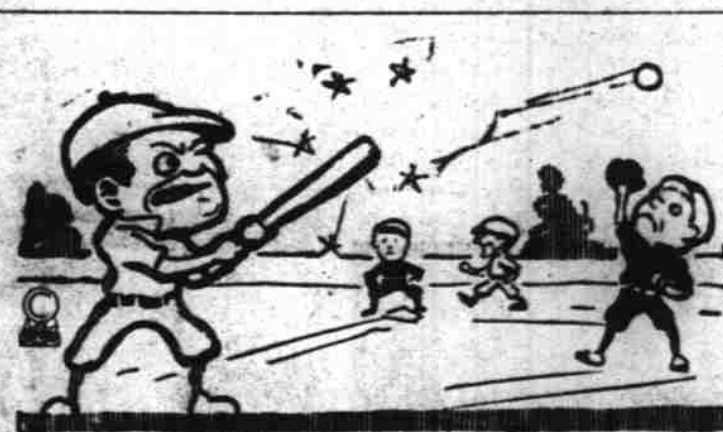
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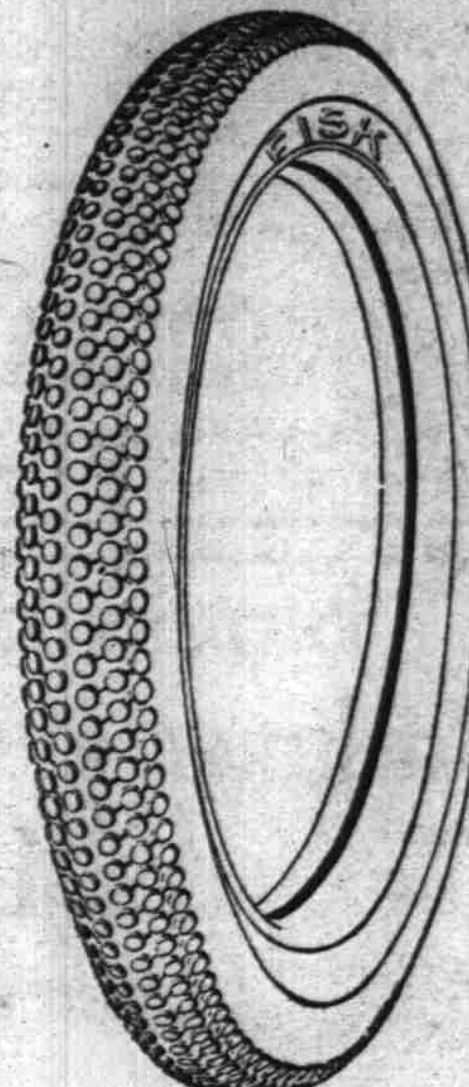
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